3108

The Larva of *Apomyrma* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

BY GEORGE C. WHEELER and JEANETTE WHEELER

Reprinted from PSYCHE, Vol. 77, No. 3, September, 1970
pages 276-279

B

3108

Reprinted from PSYCHE, Vol. 77, No. 3, 1970

THE LARVA OF *APOMYRMA* (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

BY GEORGE C. WHEELER AND JEANETTE WHEELER[1]

Recently Dr. W. L. Brown sent us for study the larvae of a new genus of ponerine ants from Ivory Coast collected by J. Lévieux. The adults of the genus are described in the previous article in this issue. Our descriptions of the larva follow:

Genus APOMYRMA Brown, Gotwald & Lévieux

Body elongate, terete, moderately slender and with the thorax slightly curved ventrally. Body hairs numerous, short, simple and generally distributed except on the intersegmental membranes. No spinules on the integument. Cranium transversely subelliptical in anterior view. Antennae with 2 minute sensilla each. Labrum narrow, elongate-parabolic, with the base dilated; with a few spinules on the posterior surface. Mandibles elongate and very slender; basal ¼ abruptly dilated laterally; remainder slightly curved medially and posteriorly; apical tooth small; 2 small acute medial teeth; anterior surface smooth. Maxillary palps peg-like. Labial palps low rounded elevations. Maxillae, labium and hypopharynx without spinules.

The larva of *Apomyrma* resembles most closely those of *Prionopelta* (Wheeler and Wheeler 1952: 120, 141; 1964: 447, 460) in the tribe Amblyoponini, but differ as follows: —

CHARACTER	*Apomyrma*	*Prinopelta*
anus	terminal	subterminal
head size	small (body length: head length=15)	large (body length: head length=8)
cranium shape	transversely subelliptical	subcircular
antennae	2 sensilla	3 sensilla
labrum	narrow and elongate-parabolic	broad, transversely subrectangular and feebly bilobed
mandible base	abruptly dilated laterally	dilated basally
mandible blade	slightly curved medially	straight

[1]Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada System, Reno, Nevada.
Manuscript received by the editor October 22, 1970.

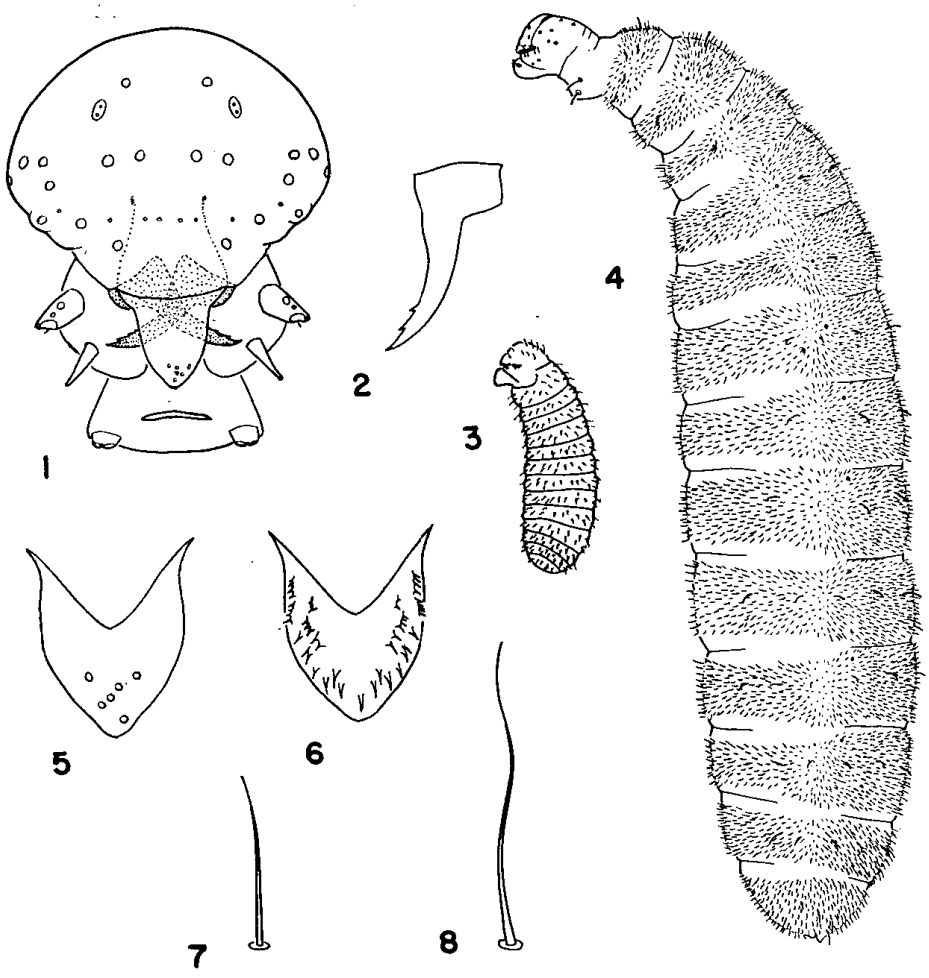
B

appearance of maxillae and labium	seemingly very large and flaring due to constriction at bases and to narrow labrum	seemingly normal
spinules on maxillae and labium	none	present
maxillary palp	a stout peg	bootee-shaped

Apomyrma stygia Brown, Gotwald & Lévieux

Length (through spiracles) about 2.3 mm. Moderately slender; abdomen elongate-ellipsoidal; posterior end narrowly rounded; thorax slightly curved ventrally, its diameter decreasing rapidly toward the anterior end; anterior half of prothorax forming a nearly hairless "broken" neck. Anus terminal with 2 lips, the posterior lip larger. Spiracles minute. Eleven differentiated somites. Integument apparently without spinules. Body hairs numerous, very short (0.02-0.06 mm long), the longest in a transverse band around the middle of each somite. Head small; cranium transversely subelliptical in anterior view; breadth equal to length; due to the narrowness of the labrum and the constriction of their bases, the maxillae and labium appear prominent and flaring. Head hairs few [all hairs broken on our material]. Antennae small, slightly raised, each with 2 minute sensilla. Labrum narrow and elongate-parabolic, with the base dilated; anterior surface with 6 irregularly placed sensilla; ventral border with 4 sensilla; posterior surface without sensilla but with a few relatively long spinules, isolated distally and in short arcuate rows basally. Mandibles feebly sclerotized; basal ¼ abruptly dilated laterally, distal ¾ narrow, slightly curved medially and posteriorly into an apical tooth; with 2 small acute subapical teeth on the medial border; anterior surface smooth. Maxillae lobose; apparently without spinules; palp a stout peg with 5 sensilla (1 large and encapsulated, 1 bearing a long peg); galea slender and digitiform. Labium about half as wide as head; apparently without spinules; palp a low knob with 3 sensilla; opening of sericteries wide. Hypopharynx apparently without spinules.

Very Young Larva. Length (through spiracles) about 0.7 mm. Subcylindrical, slightly attenuated anteriorly and slightly curved ventrally. Anus terminal, without lips. Apparently without integumentary spinules. Body hairs very few, simple, very short (0.004-0.012 mm long), in a band around the middle of each somite. Head



Figs. 1-8. *Apomyrma stygia.* 1. Head in anterior view (only bases of head hairs shown), ×284. 2. Left mandible in anterior view, ×520. 3. Very young larva in side view, ×42. 4. Mature larva in side view (reconstruction), ×42. 5. Anterior surface of labrum, ×625. 6. Posterior surface of labrum, ×625. 7 and 8. Two body hairs, ×1065.

hairs few, simple, short (0.01 mm long). Antennae small, with 2 sensilla each. Labrum small; subparabolic in anterior view; breadth twice the length; with 4 ventral sensilla; apparently without spinules. Mandibles small; feebly sclerotized; subtriangular in anterior view; with 2 minute subapical teeth on the medial border. Maxillae large and lobose; apparently without spinules; palp a cluster of 5 sensilla; galea represented by 2 sensilla. Labium large; half as wide as head; apparently without spinules; palp a cluster of 4 sensilla. Hypopharynx apparently without spinules.

Material studied: numerous larvae from Ivory Coast, courtesy of Dr. W. L. Brown.

Literature Cited

Wheeler, G. C., and Jeanette Wheeler

1952. The ant larvae of the subfamily Poneriane. Amer. Midland Nat. 48: 111-144, 604-672.

1964. The ant larvae of the subfamily Ponerinae: supplement. Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 57: 443-462.